

DC CAS 2011 – Reports Release
Answers to Parent’s Frequently Asked Questions

Reports Distribution Process

Question: **How do I get my child’s DC CAS results report?**

Answer: Schools will either mail out DC CAS results or send them home with students at the start of the 2011-2012 school year. Please make sure that your phone number and address have been updated with your school’s office.

Question: **My child’s school from last year is closed. Where can I get a copy of his/her 2011 DC CAS report?**

Answer: The DC CAS reports for students in closing schools will be forwarded to the corresponding destination schools. The destination schools will send out the student reports to parents. Please see table below.

Closing and Destination Schools	
Closed Schools	Destination Schools (school where DC CAS reports will be forwarded to and mailed from)
Hamilton	Prospect Learning Center (grades 1 to 5) Ron Brown Middle School (grades 6 to 8)
Shaed	Emery Educational Campus
Transition Academy	Ballou SHS

Question: **My child is at a new school this year. Where can I get a copy of his/her DC CAS 2011 report?**

Answer: Please contact the school where your child took the DC CAS in 2011. If the school is closed, please contact the destination school, according to the table above.

Question: **My child’s DC CAS Student Report was lost. Where can I get a copy?**

Answer: You can request a duplicate copy of your child’s DC CAS Student Report from the school where your child took the DC CAS. If the school is closed, please contact the destination school, according to the table above. If a duplicate copy is not available at a school site, contact the Office of Data and Accountability at dcps.testing@dc.gov. Please include your child’s first name, last name, DOB and the school where he/she took the DC CAS in 2011 in the request.

Proficiency Levels

Question: **What do “Advanced”, “Proficient”, “Basic” and “Below Basic” mean?**

Answer: “Advanced,” “Proficient,” “Basic,” and “Below Basic” are the four levels of performance students can achieve on each section of the DC CAS. Performance levels show the degree of student mastery in each of the content areas.

More detailed information about performance levels for each subject can be found on pages 34-99 of the state Guide to Test Interpretation found here:

http://www.osse.dc.gov/seoframes.asp?doc=/seo/lib/seofassessment_and_accountability/2010_dc_cas_guide_to_test_interpretation_final.pdf

If you're looking for more information about the content areas tested, please visit the OSSE website and look through the 2011 DC CAS Resource Guide:

http://osse.dc.gov/seoframes.asp?doc=/seo/lib/seofassessment_and_accountability/2011_dc_cas_resource_guide.pdf

Question: If my child scored at "Below Basic" on both Reading and Math, does that mean they will have to repeat his/her previous grade level?

Answer: The DC CAS report is not tied in to grade promotion. Your child will not be held back based on his/her DC CAS scores.

Instructional Support

Question: Who should I contact for instructional recommendations for my child based on his/her DC CAS report?

Answer: Your child's school will best be able to help you with the appropriate instructional recommendations for your child.

Question: Can I get a copy of the 2011 DC CAS test?

Answer: The DC CAS is a secured assessment mandated by the state. Copies of the 2011 questions are not released. However, the some of the 2009 questions are available online at: <http://www.nclb.osse.dc.gov/itembank.asp>

School Level Data

Question: What is AYP?

Answer: AYP stands for Adequate Yearly Progress. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB, Public law 107-100), requires the District of Columbia to annually determine whether schools, districts, and the state have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward the goal of having all students meet rigorous state academic standards by the 2013-2014 school year. Each year, the performance of all students in the school, local education agency (LEA), and state is measured using the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS). The results are compared against annual performance targets to determine whether the school, LEA, or state is making AYP. More information on AYP can be found at http://www.osse.dc.gov/seoframes.asp?doc=/seo/lib/seofassessment_and_accountability/district_of_columbia_assessment_and_accountability_manual_2011.pdf

Question: I would like to know more about Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) results for my child's school. Where can I find this information?

Answer: The school level AYP data for 2003-2010 can be accessed at <http://www.nclb.osse.dc.gov>.

On the left side of the home page, you can select the year, type of report, school group, school level, school and subject. 2011 AYP data will be available in early August, 2011.

Question: **What does the school level data show?**

Answer: The school level data shows the overall score and proficiency level for the school in each of the content areas. This data shows if the school and each of the subgroups (i.e. male/female, general education/special education etc.) met AYP or Safe Harbor. Safe Harbor is a means of meeting AYP based on comparing this year's scores with the previous year. If a school does not meet the AYP goals for proficiency, but makes significant improvements, they may be eligible for Safe Harbor.

If you have any additional questions about DC CAS and reports release, please email dcps.testing@dc.gov.